

CORRECTED FISCAL NOTE
HB 479 - SB 723

May 6, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes psychologists to prescribe drugs, laboratory tests, medicines, devices and treatments after receiving a special certification from the Board of Examiners in Psychology. A prescribing psychologist would fulfill requirements necessary for certification including 450 hours of didactic education in pharmacology, psychopharmacology and related sciences; a minimum of one calendar year of supervision with at least 100 patients; and successful completion of a national examination testing competency to engage in the practice of prescriptive authority. Requires prescribing psychologists to have two years of a collaborative agreement with a physician and maintain post-collaborative communication with a licensed physician for the purposes of diagnosis. Creates a multidisciplinary group to advise the Board of Examiners in Psychology in developing regulations for the collaborative agreement and formulary.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

On February 11, 2005 we issued a fiscal note which indicated the estimated fiscal impact stated below. Based on additional information provided by the Bureau of TennCare, we have added the italicized fourth assumption.

(Corrected)

Increase State Revenues - \$3,450


Increase State Expenditures - \$1,200 Recurring
\$2,250 One-Time

Assumptions:

- Additional expenditures for notification of licensees of changes, rulemaking and computer modifications to the Regulatory Boards Licensing System.
- Health related boards are required to be self-sufficient. The Board of Examiners in Psychology will charge fees for application and renewal to offset the cost of implementing and administering requirements.
- Multidisciplinary advisory group will not receive per diem or travel.
- The Bureau of TennCare had more than \$2 billion in drug expenditures in 2004. *According to the TennCare Bureau, very few psychologists will meet the requirements to gain prescribing privileges and the Bureau therefore will not incur a significant increase in State and Federal expenditures for increased prescriptions. The Fiscal Review Committee staff believes that if the number of psychologists with prescribing authority increases significantly, there may be an increase in the number of prescriptions subject to TennCare reimbursement which could result in a significant increase in state and federal TennCare expenditures.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director